

COUNTRY'S SOILS  
NOT WEARING OUTPopular Supposition Shown by  
Expert to Be Entirely  
Wrong.

## PRODUCTION IS INCREASING

Government Report Shows What  
Is Being Done by Scientific  
Methods.WASHINGTON, D. C., September 5.—  
Soils of the United States are not  
wearing out, and the crop yields are  
rather increasing than decreasing.These facts are demonstrated in a  
bulletin shortly to be issued by the  
Bureau of Soils of the Agricultural  
Department.The bulletin, entitled "A Study of  
Crop Yields and Soil Composition in  
Relation to Soil Productivity," was  
prepared by Professor Milton Whitney,  
chief of the bureau. It deals exhaustively  
with the yields of crops, from  
1867 to 1906, inclusive.In conclusion, Professor Whitney  
says: "A careful study of the data  
which has been presented appears to  
justify two conclusions—first, that the  
productivity of the newer agricultural  
soils of the United States and of the  
older agricultural soils of Europe,  
taken as a whole and for the nation,  
are not declining, as is popularly sup-  
posed. Individual farming deteriorates,  
and soils wear out, as they have al-  
ways done, but, as a whole, it seems  
probable that we are producing more  
crops per acre than formerly.""This is undoubtedly due to many  
factors—to better and more intelligent  
cultivation, more and better systems of  
rotation of crops and in later years  
to the intelligent use of fertilizers  
through measures of control in the  
hands of every individual farmer. In  
addition, we must recognize the im-  
provement in farm animals and stock,  
the improvement in seed, the increase in  
breeding, and increased intensity in  
population, which is forcing attention  
to more intensive methods. Second,  
that so far as our information goes,  
there is apparently no significant dif-  
ference at the present time between  
the composition of the old agricul-  
tural soils of Europe and the newer  
agricultural soils of the United States  
with respect to potash, phosphoric acid,  
lime and magnesia."The bulletin shows an increase in  
all cereal crops throughout the United  
States for the past three or four de-  
cades.The wheat yield per acre in Russia  
from 1883 to 1906, according to the  
bulletin, varied from 18 bushels per  
acre. In the latter year it was 3.4  
bushels.In Ireland the yield of wheat per  
acre in 1883 was 25.5 bushels, and in  
1906 it was 29.6 bushels, a constant  
increase. It reached the  
yield of 34.8 bushels per  
acre.In Great Britain the yield of wheat  
in 1881 was 20.9 bushels per acre, and  
there was a slight variation of in-  
crease up to 1906, which brought the  
yield to 24.7 bushels.The wheat yield of Germany was 18.2  
bushels in 1883, with a gradual increase  
to 1906, bringing the yield then to  
20.3 bushels.The bulletin gives the following  
averages by States for the production  
of wheat per acre from 1867 to 1907:Maine, 18.5 bushels; New York, 18.5  
bushels; Michigan, 14.5 bushels; Pennsylvania, 14.5  
bushels; Ohio, 14.1 bushels; Wisconsin, 12.7  
bushels; Minnesota, 13.6 bushels; Maryland, 13.2  
bushels; Illinois, 13.2 bushels; California, 12.9  
bushels; Delaware, 13.1 bushels; Indiana, 13.1  
bushels; Iowa, 12.4 bushels; Missouri, 12.2 bushels; Texas, 11.5  
bushels; West Virginia, 10.8 bushels; Montana, 10.5  
bushels; Virginia, 9.1 bushels; Arkansas, 8.9 bushels;  
Tennessee, 8.2 bushels; Mississippi, 8.1 bushels; Alabama,  
7.6 bushels; Georgia, 7.1 bushels; North Carolina, 6.9  
bushels; South Carolina, 6.6 bushels.Increased Activity.  
WASHINGTON, September 5.—In-  
creased activity in the United States  
is indicated by the Bureau compiled  
for the month of July by the Bureau of  
Statistics of the Department of Com-  
merce and Labor.The shipments of soft coal, coke, ore  
and iron ore for the month of July 1909  
and 1907, on the basis of the month of  
July, show a marked increase in the  
shipments of soft coal, coke, and iron  
ore, and a decrease in the shipments of  
ore and iron ore. The shipments of  
soft coal, coke, and iron ore were 15,700,000  
tons, compared with 15,000,000 tons in 1907.  
The shipments of ore and iron ore were  
1,500,000 tons, compared with 1,800,000 tons  
in 1907.The falling off in the shipments of  
ore and iron ore is attributed mainly to a  
shortage in the receipts of these materials  
in 1907. The receipts of ore and iron ore  
in 1907 were 1,500,000 tons, compared  
with 1,800,000 tons in 1906. The receipts  
of soft coal, coke, and iron ore in 1907  
were 15,000,000 tons, compared with 15,700,000  
tons in 1906.A considerable decrease is shown in  
the season shipments of hides, while  
the activity in the boot and shoe mar-  
ket shows a 20 per cent improvement.

Receipts Fall Off.

The receipts of grain and flour  
at four of the principal Atlantic sea-  
board ports was only about one-half  
of the receipts for the correspondingmonths in 1907 and about 30 per cent  
of the receipts in July, 1908.The decrease in the shipments of  
wheat shows the greatest decline, the  
receipts at the four ports having been  
57 per cent below the receipts of July,  
1908.An increased traffic activity of 16  
per cent, in excess of the total for July,  
1908, is indicated by the July figures  
of the cars handled by thirty-five car  
service associations. The American  
Railway Association reports a consid-  
erable decrease in the number of idle  
cars all over the country and a short-  
age of over 2,000 cars is reported,  
chiefly in the Middle West and South  
Atlantic sections.COOK BOMBARDED  
WITH QUESTIONS  
FROM SCIENTISTS(Continued From Page One—Column 1.)  
that he may revise his scientific re-  
ports before he gives them to the world.What is "The Merry Widow," to-  
day, the explorer asked questions,  
which to the listeners appeared amus-  
ing, about what was going on.What was this remarkable play, "The  
Merry Widow," of which he had heard  
from the Danish and Greenland? What  
was Tatt's majority? and similar ques-  
tions.Two of the most prominent literary  
men of Denmark, George Brandes and  
Baron Rosenkrantz, came in to shake  
hands with the explorer. They were  
of the day Dr. Cook met the most notable  
people in all branches. The program  
which has now been arranged includes  
a reception by the American minister  
to the diplomats on Tuesday after-  
noon, reception by the Danish and  
university delegates, who wish to pay  
their respects to the explorer, and an  
address by Dr. Cook before the Geo-  
graphical Society.In the matter of the authenticity of Dr.  
Cook's exploit, there is this to be said:June. The shed has been completely  
reconstructed.Mr. Wright concluded by saying,  
"I want to get to the pole."

Don'ts Grow Stronger.

LONDON, September 5.—"Dr. Cook's  
statements in Denmark in support of  
his claim have rather strengthened than  
weakened the opinion as to the value  
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is representative of the attitude held  
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Cook's scientific observations and  
diaries, they express some surprise  
that the latter have been sent to the  
United States, instead of brought with  
him for immediate production.

Rests on His Verdict.

LICK OBSERVATORY, CALIF., Sep-  
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night declared Dr. W. H. Wright, as-  
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Dr. Cook could have determined his  
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a clear line of vision for his observation.

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NEW YORK, September 5.—National  
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achievement of Dr. Frederick A. Cook  
found expression to-day in the pulpits  
of New York. The congregation at the  
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ly damaged, and all would be ready inSUNDAY CROWDS  
A FAIR GROUNDSMany Exhibits Already Secured,  
Including High-Class Mid-  
way Attractions.Some extraordinary articles are con-  
tained in the number of entries  
being received for exhibition at  
the Virginia State Fair next month.  
One of those entered on Saturday was  
a crazy quilt which weighed from 40 to  
60 pounds. Manager Lloyd has ar-  
ranged to have twenty of these quilts  
perched on pedestals, well above the  
heads of spectators on both sides of  
the roadway leading from the im-  
mense gate to the race course. They  
will be interspersed with potted palms  
and other plants.That there will be some fabulous ex-  
hibits in the vegetable classes can be  
inferred from a letter received from a  
truck grower in Hanover county, who  
asserts that he has pumpkins growing  
on his vines which weigh from 40 to  
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The new midway, "Wah-Hoo Lane,"  
will be a marvel of star attractions,  
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